

that disinfectants like those of the prior art are destructive to plants, even if the disinfectants are useful to treat hard surfaces surrounding the plant. This Declaration supports our statement in the previous Amendment that "in the course of deployment of these preparations on living plants during the testing for any side-effects on plants, the test plants showed severe damage in the form of burns. Thus, such compositions would not be expected to be useful to combat phytopathogens."

In conclusion, we respectfully submit that our claimed invention is clearly distinguished from anything taught or suggested by the German patents DE OS 3227126 and DE OS 3229097, and Moberg (WO 96/111572). Reconsideration of this rejection is therefore requested.

In summary, all of the Examiner's outstanding rejections and objections have been addressed, and the application is believed to be in allowable form. Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions or would like to make suggestions as to claim language, she is encouraged to contact Marlana K. Titus at (301) 924-9600.

Respectfully submitted,



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